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Camel."

The Daily Colonist

HALL & WALKER
AGENTS
WELLINGTON COLLIERY CO'S
COAL
100 Government St. Phone 83

VOL. XCIII. NO. 40. VICTORIA DAILY COLONIST, FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1905. FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR.

**BROKEN OR DAMAGED
JEWELRY REPAIRED**

**WE DO IT
FOR LITTLE MONEY**

With up to date machinery,
electric polishers and ex-
pert workmen, we turn out
first-class work.

Challoner & Mitchell
JEWELERS

**OLD STYLE JEWELRY
MADE OVER INTO NEW**

Tomato catsup Griffin's Extra bot. \$.25
" " Alymer, tin - - .10
" " Gallon jars - - 1.00

We have just received a small shipment
of bitter oranges for Marmalade

DIXIE H. ROSS & CO.,
The Independent Cash Grocers

Contractors Supplies
.....AND.....
General Hardware
The Hickman Tye Hardware Co.
LIMITED
32 and 34 Yates Street, Victoria, B. C.
P. O. Drawer 613. Telephone 59.

**"No Trouble to
Show Goods"**

On the contrary, it's a great gratifica-
tion to us to display our superb line of
wall and ceiling papers and interior decora-
tions generally, because we take pride in
their artistic merit. This is to invite an
early inspection of our room hangings.
Our prices will please you almost as much
as the papers themselves. We have a
large staff to keep busy, so are now figur-
ing at SPECIAL WINTER RATES.

THE MELROSE CO., LTD., 40 and 78 Fort St

R. P. RITHET & CO., Ltd.
INSURANCE
FIRE
MARINE
EMPLOYERS LIABILITY
ACCIDENT
&c., &c., &c.

20,000 ROLLS

**NEW
NEAT
CHEAP
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INGRAMS, FROM 10c. per Single Roll
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70 FORT STREET. PHONE 512

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DEWAR'S
OLD HIGHLAND
The Standard of Excellence.
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CRACKED CORN

Feed four Chickens with CRACKED CORN—the Best and Cheapest feed on the market.

THE BRACKMAN-MILLING COMPANY, LIMITED
155 GOVERNMENT STREET.

Storm King Supreme

Entire Atlantic Coast In Grasp
of One of the Fiercest
Blizzards.

Many Deaths in New England
and Suffering Is
Intense.

Extended as Far South as Flor-
ida and Orange Crop
Suffers.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—New York tonight is recovering from the effects of yesterday's storm, which so effectively put a stop to traf-
fic and tied up some lines of business.
Although the day was bitter cold, the thermometer registering zero this morning, 15,000 men were sent out to remove the snow from the thoroughfares, and aided by the numerous surface cars, many avenues of travel are now open.
Over 250 snow shovellers were treated at the hospitals below 14th street for frostbites, and scores of others were attended at open-air stations and by physicians. Owing to the diffi-
culty of reaching down town offices, but little business was transacted during the day and all places of amusement were scantily attended tonight.

Over five hundred men and women spent last night in the passenger station in Long Island city and 125 persons slept in the station in Jamaica. Many others were compelled to remain all night in trains and trolleys stalled in deep drifts on the roads around New York. The embargo on shipping was lifted with the advent of clear weather, and the large fleet of delayed liners reached port ice-covered. All report testimonies voyages and much suffer-
ing from the storm. The steam liner, George, which left Bayonne, N. J., for Brooklyn yesterday with seven men aboard, has not been heard from since. A vessel is reported sunk off Robbins Reef. The wreck was noticed by a passing vessel and it is feared it may be the Clarence. The mails are greatly delayed and rural mail carriers are unable to cover their routes.

New York, Jan. 26.—Reports today from various points in the New England coast indicated that the great storm of yesterday had left its severity during the night. Four schooners and one steamer have been driven ashore on Cape Cod. The steamer was the George, town of the Atlantic Steamship Com-
pany, which struck on Great Point, on the Nantucket shoals. The crew have reached shore, but the steamer is reported to be in a bad position.

Clearing weather followed the great storm of yesterday brought New York the coldest day it has experienced in many years. Terrible suffering prevailed among the residents of some of the poorer quarters of the city, where thousands were without sufficient heat or clothing. The storm cleared comparatively early. Many lines of transportation have been unable to make their usual schedules early today.

One of the most serious conditions which confronted New Yorkers today was the food and fuel supply. Already there is practically a famine in milk. Not a milk train from any of the supply districts has arrived since early yesterday. Many of the trains, which should have arrived yesterday had not put in an appearance today, and it was announced by the big milk contracting companies that they were not expected before late today.

The recovery of the city was very slow and under-
ground and elevated roads were seriously taxed. Conditions in Brooklyn are worse than in New York. On many lines no cars at all were running during the night. The cars which were ob-
liged to walk long distances to other lines, only to find the cars and trains filled to their capacity. Every railroad running to this city was suffering severely from the storm today.

Not one of the most serious conditions of yesterday's storm succeeded in getting through in either direction. Traffic conditions on Staten Island was so bad that the county offices remained closed for the day, as none of the officials could reach the county building. According to the Herald five fatalities attended the storm which passed this city yesterday.

In a snowdrift 20 feet deep the 20th Century Limited of the New York Cen-
tral railroad left Irvington on Hudson. About 50 men and women are on board. Two other trains are storm-bound at Irvington.

Boston, Jan. 26.—Boston was slowly recovering early today from the effects of yesterday's great storm. The streets were piled high with snow with which thousands of the city employees were struggling. Cars were able to run on fairly good time this forenoon. The train service was still badly hampered. Thousands of suburban residents were obliged to spend the night in the city and hotels were crowded to their utmost capacity. The mercury continued to drop to five points above zero. The snow ceased falling about midnight and at 8 o'clock the clouds were beginning to clear away. The wind at that hour was high from the north.

Highland Light, Mass., Jan. 26.—The terrible storm which began yesterday and continued all night had not yet subsided this morning. A gale of 50 miles an hour, the snow was driven in clouds so thick that even on shore a person could not see the water without going to the very brink. Some of the wires connecting the light with the mainland were blown down and no word from them could be received. No disasters have become known at this point.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 26.—Traffic on steam and trolley lines in and about the city today was practically at a standstill. Heavy snowdrifts, resumed conditions approaching the normal to-
day. One death from exposure was reported early today.

Hyannis, Jan. 26.—Train service on Cape Cod had been suspended on account of the snow blockade. Highways are impassable on account of huge snowdrifts. Wire communication was not seriously interrupted.

Lake Villa, Conn., Jan. 26.—Train service on the Central New England road was still tied up today on account of yesterday's storm. Since 11 o'clock yesterday morning no train had reached here at 10 o'clock today from either east or west.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 26.—Although snow stopped falling here early last evening this morning found the train service still badly crippled. The trains from all directions were two or more hours behind their schedule.

Says Crisis Has Passed

Governor General Trepoff De-
clares Backbone of Revo-
lution Is Broken.

No Information Forthcoming as
to the Fate of Gorky or
Gopon.

Conciliatory Policy Adopted With
Promise of Industrial
Reforms.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 27.—(2 a. m.)—Although the strikes in Re-
al, Liban, Kieff, Odessa and a few smaller places are extending, the situation is nowhere acute. An in-
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With troops patrolling the streets of St. Petersburg, Mos-
cow, Liban, Kieff, Odessa and the other industrial centres of Russia, there were yesterday no serious collisions with strikers. In Moscow some of the employers are evincing a willingness to make some concessions to their work-
men, but there has been no general agreement on that point. In St. Petersburg the return of workmen has enabled several fac-
tories to resume operations, and the authorities hope to witness a general resumption there on Mon-
day. The Minister of the Interior has promised to consider the cases of the prominent writers who were sent to the St. Peter and St. Paul fortress for their activity in the political and economic agita-
tion and has given a qualified promise that they shall be re-
leased.

COTTON MILLS SET ON FIRE.
London, Jan. 26.—A despatch from St. Petersburg, dated 9:25 p. m., re-
ports that a large cotton mill has been set on fire and are burning fiercely.

HUNGARIAN ELECTION.
Budapest, Jan. 26.—The elections of members of the Hungarian Diet are proceeding quietly in this city. Slight dis-
turbances have occurred in some of the provinces.

BRITISH AID TO STRIKERS.
London, Jan. 26.—The executive com-
mittee of the miners' federation has de-
clined to send \$10,000 worth of West-
phalian strikers, and also urges the miners of the United Kingdom not to work more time than previously, thus preventing extra supplies of British coal from reaching Germany.

Decisive Struggle Being Waged on Banks of Frozen Shaho

GEN. KUROKI'S HEADQUARTERS, Jan. 26.—A heavy and continuous artillery roar has been heard to the westward all day. Apparently the largest engagement since October is being fought. Reports received here are to the effect that the Russian force has crossed the Hun river on the Japanese left wing. A Japanese force advanced against the Russians, making an attack. The fighting must be attended with great suffering from the cold. A snowstorm began on Monday, following a long period of mild-weather. The temperature is below zero and the plains are covered with several inches of snow. The ground is too hard for rapid trenching. Today's movement by the Russians is the first important one since Gen. Mischukos' recent raid.

Esquimalt To Be Abandoned

Imperial Authorities Have so
Informed the Canadian
Government.

Little Prospect That Victoria's
Representations Re Salmon
Will Prevail.

OTTAWA, ONT., Jan. 26.—(Special.)—Richard Hall, M. P., arrived here today by special train on behalf of the Victoria Board of Trade, against the proposal to suspend salmon canning operations on the Fraser river during 1906 and 1908. Tonight, in company with Dr. Bell-Irving, Mr. R. J. Leary, and all members from British Columbia, a conference took place with Hon. Mr. Prefontaine and Senator Templeman. Mr. Hall represented how dis-
astrous the proposal to close the industry would be to a large section of the people of British Columbia, but his arguments did not have the support of a majority of the provincial representa-
tives. Dr. Bell-Irving and Mr. Ker have been here for some days, and have evidently captured members. A final decision was not reached tonight, but will be next Tuesday, when another conference with the minister of fisheries takes place. Meanwhile Dr. Sproule has a series of questions on the order paper on this subject. He asks if the govern-
ment is aware that the "Hudson Sound canners are behind the proposal."

The Columbia and Western Railway Company, which has already constructed 135 miles of road, asks for an exten-
sion of time within which to complete its line to Pentticon.

Mr. Sloan (Comox-Atlin) was informed by Premier Tupper today that the government has information to the effect that the Imperial authorities pro-
pose to abandon Esquimalt as a naval station.

Mr. Smith (Nanaimo) was informed that the act passed by the British Columbia legislature in 1904 to regulate immigration into British Columbia had been found ultra vires because it interfered with Dominion policy, and has been disallowed.

The house only sat until 6 o'clock today. Moderate progress was made on the estimates. Sir William Mulock announced it was intended to instal pneumatic tubes for transmission of mails in Toronto and Montreal. Sir William Mulock also intimated that there was no prospect of the adoption of the system of rural free mail delivery in Canada. The experiment had been found very costly in the States.

FOUR MEN KILLED.
Doylstown, Pa., Jan. 26.—Four men were instantly killed today by an ac-
cident at Durham furnace. The men were operating a cylinder train, which ran into a snowdrift, jumped the track and went over an embankment fifty feet high into the Delaware river.

EX-MAYOR SENTENCED.
Richmond, W. Va., Jan. 25.—The Sup-
reme court today sentenced to prison a former mayor of Charlottesville, con-
victed of wife-murder. He was sen-
tenced to be hanged Jan. 20, and was reprieved by Governor McHatton until Feb. 10.

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North Sea Investigation

Commission Resumes at Paris
Those Phantom Japanese
Craft.

Wounded Trawler Tells Moving
Story Not Without
Effect.

PARIS, Jan. 26.—The interna-
tional commission to investigate the incident resumed its sittings today with diminished attendance and interest, owing to the many fishermen wit-
nesses repeating practically the same story as Captain Whielton. The story of the terrible cannonade of the Russian warships. Twelve shots struck the Mino, one going through her galley and another cutting her rigging.

Counsel for Russia, by cross-examina-
tion of the witnesses, endeavored to establish the fact that the weather was foggy and that the witnesses were un-
able to tell whether Japanese torpedo boats were present.

Baron Taube, the Russian judicial ad-
viser, asked: "If the night was dark and foggy, it is impossible for you to affirm that no foreign boats were among your fleet?"

Answer—"I don't believe it; we cer-
tainly would have seen them."
Baron Taube—"Then you cannot af-
firm it positively?"

Answer—"I can only give my belief."
J. E. Hame, a sailor, also described the violence of the cannonade.

Wm. Smith, a wounded sailor of the
trawler Crane, told a moving story which produced an impression. He de-
scribed the formidable effect of the Rus-
sian fire, which killed the captain of the Crane, tore off the mate's hand, killed a sailor and finally sunk the trawler, after every one on board except one man had been killed or wounded. Ad-
miral Fournier (France) complimented Smith on his courageous attitude during the fight. A witness named Green said that, following the cannonading, he tem-
porarily mistook the Crane for a torpedo boat and so remarked to an engineer of his vessel that he detected his mistake. Counsel for Russia asked how many others mistook the Crane for a torpedo boat. The witness replied that he alone made the mistake, being blinded by the searchlights.

Another witness said he saw a trawler attempting to cross the Russian fire. The trawler's captain said: "Look, it is a torpedo boat." Witness replied, "No, it is a trawler."

They went to the vessel's assistance and tried to help and bring her back. The trawler then sank. The witness re-
ported that the vessel was a trawler, but counsel for Russia was not satisfied and a long discussion ensued between the British and Russian lawyers.

SPANISH MINISTRY RESIGNS.
Madrid, Jan. 26.—The ministry has resigned and King Alfonso has induced the Marquis Villaverde to form a new cabinet.

AUSTRIAN STEAMER SEIZED.
Tokio, Jan. 26.—The Japanese seized the German steamer Hama off Hokkaido island at 9 o'clock last night. She had a cargo of 4,000 tons of coal on board and was bound for Vladivostok.

The Taxation Question

Again Considered by Committee
Enquiring Into Assessment
Act.

John Oliver M. P. Expresses
Views With Respect to the
Farmers' Grievance.

Representatives of the Property
Owners of Victoria and Van-
couver Are Heard.

THE assessment commission met yesterday to hear certain representa-
tions from Mr. John Oliver, M. P., concerning the operation of the act as it affects the farmer, and from members of the Real Estate Owners' Association of Victoria and Vancouver.

In response to a request of Mr. Oliver a letter was read from Assessor Fisher to Mr. McKinnigan, asking if farmers were allowed to deduct the cost of production, such as rent, labor, seed, etc., in filling up their return giving the value of the farm produce. A reply from Mr. McKinnigan stating that such reductions should not be made was also read.

Mr. Oliver contended that this discriminated unfairly against the farmer. In support of an assertion previously made by him that "growing crops" were subject to taxation, he said that Mr. Major, an employee of the assessor of rice, had come to him in June last and asked for the value of the crops then growing.

In explanation of this, Mr. Fisher explained that Mr. Major was a junior clerk and did not comprehend the intui-
tion of his office. In this case he had exceeded the authorization of the act, and this Mr. Fisher had explained to him.

Mr. Oliver argued that the act was unworkable. It was impossible to assess a large part of the produce of the farm; under its provisions, for instance, small fruits, such as strawberries, were often picked, marketed and eaten in the course of a few days. Then the assessment on general product could not be levied with anything like just equilib-
rium, as on the date chosen by the assessor for making his returns, one man's crop might be cut and another's still growing. The man who happened to have his produce on hand in the barns, would be mulcted and the others would escape.

Mr. Cotton remarked that the farm-
ers in filling up their returns showing the crop values, would naturally not give any more than they were entitled to.

Mr. Oliver said it was impossible for any assessor to fairly equalize the assess-
ment, as crops were being harvested in the year, commencing with the gathering of the small fruits in June and ending with the harvesting of the root crop in Novem-
ber and December. A farmer's in-
come was derived from the produce of his land. He must sell his produce to get money to pay his taxes. So that he held the exemption of income in the farmer's case did not work out in pri-
nciple.

Mr. Cotton: What is the difference between the farmer and his produce and a merchant with goods in his store.

Mr. Oliver: He is not assessed on what he has made out of his goods.

Mr. Cotton: Yes, in just the same way the assessor assesses into the mer-
chant's store and says you have \$5,000 worth of goods, which he assesses as personal property. That merchant may say: "My living is in those goods. You are making me pay practically an in-
come tax."

Mr. Oliver: No, the difference is to my mind quite obvious. You go in and tax the merchant on his goods just the same as you tax the farmer on his real property. The farmer is given an exemp-
tion and above that you tax the farmer on his income that is produced from that.

Mr. Cotton: There are special con-
cessions given to the farmer which are not given to the merchant or manufac-
turer. The farmer is given an exemption on all produce necessary for the susten-
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No Credit

Spot Cash

CLOSING OUT

Over \$60,000 Worth of

High-Class Dry Goods

To be sold regardless of cost

Sale Commences TODAY

DOORS OPEN AT 9 A.M. SHARP

Every article in the store reduced in price. Hundreds of bargains too numerous to mention.

The Hutcheson Company, Limited, Victoria, B. C. January 27th, 1905

CONDITIONS OF ARMIES BATTling AT SHAHO RIVER

Japanese Outnumber Their Foes and Will Doubtless Win Sanguinary and Probably Decisive Struggle of the War.

By J. Gordon Smith.

Another great battle is pending at the Shaho; then the Japanese expect to deliver a decisive blow to the Russian forces in Manchuria. If Oyama does so, the Russians may abandon Tieling and fall back to Harbin, though the big-walled city of Tieling is surrounded by most strong defence works made by Russian engineers, who have, too, spent months and thousands of roubles, to build defences at Mukden. The Japanese have been endeavoring to improve their position since winter began, and several sharp engagements have occurred. Now that Nogi's big guns are arriving—it was to delay them that the Japanese communications—Oyama will be in a better position to do this, and, following a heavy bombardment which will be commenced this week on the Russian position, battle may be expected early in February has passed, possibly early in that month.

The last battle, that of the Shaho, fought in October, was a bloodiest struggle, which the Russians lost heavily, but Oyama's victory was a negative one. The Russian centre is still south of the Shaho, and in possession of the new town, or rather village, of Shaho-pu. That village is typical of many in Manchuria, a cluster of houses of mud and thatch, on either side of one main street—the grand trunk road to the north. There is a wall thirty feet high, and gates, with towers, at every point of the compass. A short distance from the walls—as at Liao-yang—the Russians have a railway station, and a few warehouses with thick walls of stone. There will shelter few troops, however, and there will be great distress along the Russian line.

The line of Kuropatkin at the Shaho position is now from forty to forty-five miles long, which would give from 5,000 to 6,000 troops to the mile. The density would be increased in battle. The Russian armies do not total more than 300,000, while the Japanese have closed to 700,000 men. At the battle of the Shaho Kuropatkin had 220,000 men engaged, and had 60,000 casualties. It would take two months to replace the losses, the reinforcements being estimated from Liao-yang at 35,000 a month, and with an additional 70,000 received since the army will number about 300,000. There are probably 60,000 of the Russians posted along the Shaho or the Hun, possibly holding the south of the river. Only a limited force, there are about 100,000 at Mukden, and 140,000 at Tieling. To these may perhaps be added another 25,000 or 30,000, for the reinforcements of wounded today are very rapid.

With the release of the army of Nogi the Japanese are able to place a force largely superior to that of Kuropatkin in the field, and when this force, aided by the heavy guns which will greatly aid the Japanese, is hurled against Kuropatkin, the outcome will doubtless be a decisive victory for the armies of Oyama. He is a most cautious commander, almost too cautious, for it is a matter of common knowledge that Kuropatkin could have delivered a telling blow on the Russian forces if he had been allowed to advance from Feng-huang-cheng at the time of the battle of Tieling. Being cautious, Oyama has waited until the forces under his command are thoroughly ready to strike—and it is a question if Kuropatkin will survive the blow. He may; who knows? He did wonder when he extricated his armies from the defeat at Liao-yang.

The world will undoubtedly be shocked when this great battle of the Shaho is fought; throughout the war the cry has been "No quarter," and there will be, without doubt, sickening scenes of slaughter. Now both forces are suffering from the rigors of a Manchurian winter, which are severe. The Russians suffer most, because of the lack of supplies. The long line of supply is weak, even without the additional hindrance of attacks by Hungghutses, the Chinese irregulars in the pay of Japan. The Japanese lines, despite the closing of the New (New) Channel by ice, are sufficient to keep the large forces supplied. It was to be supposed that the terrible cold

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Says Crisis Has Passed

(Continued from Page One.)

Three hundred employees of the Baltic works returned to their employment today. It is expected that work at the Neva shipbuilding yards will recommence tomorrow.

Moscow, Jan. 26.—The festival yesterday of Titania, patroness of Moscow, which it was feared would be marred by disturbances and possibly bloodshed, passed comparatively quiet, although the city was in a state of alarm. The strike did not become general, but continued to spread gradually throughout the day. The official estimate at midnight was that 40,000 men were out. The authorities have brought in reinforcements of Cossacks and dragoons from Vladimir and Tver, disposing them so as to prevent a union of the Moscow strikers and strikers from various outlying districts, but strict orders were given to have evacuated from an agency on account of Cossacks and dragoons in case of extreme necessity.

A correspondent of the Associated Press after carefully verifying the rumors of innumerable collisions is able to confirm the statement that the only incident occurred on Plantesday beyond the Moscow river, where Cossacks charged, but did not fire upon a crowd of 3,000. After 9 o'clock last night the streets were almost deserted, the people remaining indoors. The aspect of the city was strange and weird, the lamps glimmering through the fog, revealing only a host of idle droskys, the garments of the drivers of sleighs and horses being covered with hoar frost. The British colony here is manifesting some uneasiness, but the British are furnishing the strikers with funds in the interest of Japan, but are cool-headed and do not manifest any alarm. The telegram appears, according to the Listok, to have been sent by the British, recently founded in Paris by the Latin-Slav League, which also declares that the British are responsible for the German coal strike, in order to prevent the coal of the Russian second Pacific squadron.

A proclamation of the prefect of Moscow has been posted at the strike corners as follows: "Under the influence of the threats of evil-disposed persons a strike has broken out. I therefore deem it my duty to notify the working people that energetic measures have been taken for their protection against agitators. Workmen wishing to resume their occupations can do so without danger." Work has been suspended at several of the small railway shops. The waterworks electric light works and gas works are guarded by troops and police. An attempt of a large body of strikers to interfere with the employees of the gas works was frustrated.

A curtain of fog has been over the city this morning, and the countless domes and minarets of Moscow are dulled by hoar frost and hardly distinguishable in the gloom. The enormous dome of the Kremlin is dimly silhouetted against the sun's dull red orb. The streets are again almost deserted. All those who visit the Kremlin are subjected to scrutiny by a host of police, but there are not many troops inside the walls, the natural strength of which is sufficient to guard the city. There have been no trouble up to this hour. The strike has embraced a majority of the printing establishments.

The day passed with complete quiet in the city. The strikers generally remained indoors. The Tverskaya and other principal thoroughfares have resumed their normal aspect. Several mills are reported to have offered an increase of wages to their employees.

The Associated Press correspondent visited the industrial district today and found that no factories were in operation in the whole region south of the river with the exception of one large establishment, which was amply guarded

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THE Taxation Question

(Continued from Page One.)

what the government expends there for schools alone.

Mr. Cotton: So if your argument is right it follows that their taxes must be increased in order to make them bear a fair share of the expenditure of the schools must be thrown on the municipality.

Mr. Oliver: In Kamloops and Vernon you collect the real estate as well as the personal property tax and you maintain roads and public works liberally with regard to others.

Mr. Cotton: It shows that there is a good deal of justice in the complaints of other municipalities that the New Westminster district is being treated too liberally with regard to others.

In reply to Mr. Kerr, witness said his objection were taken rather to the form of the act.

Mr. Cotton: Then as I understand if the government can devise some other way of doubling the taxation that would be so much a grievance with you as the mere fact of it being inequitable in its form.

Mr. Oliver said he would not commit himself to any such statement as that.

Mr. C. C. Fisher, assessor for the New Westminster district, said there had been only four or five appeals from the personal property assessment in the general district. The act has given very general satisfaction, and the administration of the act common sense, equity and discretion were used.

Mr. Oliver wanted to know if Mr. Fisher meant that he was called upon to supply deficiencies in the act.

Mr. Fisher admitted that his clerk, Mr. Major, had asked Mr. Oliver certain questions as to his growing crop, but this was due to misconception of his duties, and the matter had been explained to Mr. Major by him.

Mr. McKillop said that in no case had instructions been issued or was an assessor allowed to aggregate the value of the produce of a farm. What he had to do was to value the actual product in hand on the date of assessment. If any assessor had done otherwise it was through mistake.

Mr. Oliver explained that in his representations he had no desire to reflect upon any officials of the government. His objection was to the act itself, which was unworkable.

Mr. J. S. Yates appeared before the commission to point out a technical difficulty in regard to obtaining a title to land. It was necessary to have all taxes paid up to date of the registrar's certificate, which had proved unworkable. The commission adjourned until 2:30 o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Chas. Hope, representing the Victoria and Vancouver Property Owners' Association, raised the point that the government does not realize what it should be paid up to date of the registrar's certificate, which had proved unworkable. The commission adjourned until 2:30 o'clock.

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the original owner reasonable notice. He suggested some other changes in the working of the act to make its meaning clearer. He further pointed out that according to the wording of the act, a tenant might be made responsible for the taxes, but in reply to questions could not cite any instances of injustice having been occasioned thereby. The Attorney General observed that the section referred to merely placed an obligation on the tenant to see that there was no arrears of taxes on the property, and he thought this a reasonable obligation. It was also pointed out that the act had stood in this way for many years and had not resulted in any injustice. The point was noted for consideration.

As to deductions allowed on income tax he thought the deduction should be allowed on taxes paid on government property as well as on property belonging to the municipality. He did not think any distinction should be made. This point was also noted.

In the presence of the Attorney General Mr. Hope repeated his suggestion that the present method of collecting tax sales should be abolished and that they should follow the lines of a foreclosure action. These changes would not only ensure a more regular and more complete collection of taxes but also result more equitably for the original owner. He proposed that the assessor should have twelve months in which to get a sale confirmed either by a judge of the Supreme court or district registrar of titles. If the assessor had not confirmed in twelve months all previous proceedings to be null and void. The object of these proceedings was to cause the officers having charge of these sales to be more careful and to take every possible precaution to prevent injustice taking place.

The Attorney General observed that under the present system the original owner had a certain time within which to redeem. He remarked that the question was a difficult one, which was not native to British Columbia, but had been a source of puzzle to legislators and lawyers in other parts of Canada and the United States. The general question was noted for consideration.

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Yukon Politics.—A special despatch from Dawson, dated Wednesday, thus describes the political situation in the far-off Yukon capital: "The election of Mr. Alfred Thompson as a member of the Yukon territorial council from the Yukon district was protested today by representatives of ex-Governor Condon, who was defeated by Thompson on December 16. Thompson had a majority of nearly 700. The indication of his supporters, attending the election, was the verdict, is therefore running high now that what are considered to be blockade tactics are being resorted to. The anti-government party say that this is the most desperate attempt of the Condon forces to try to defeat the overwhelming rebellion of Yukon territory against

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J. H. LAWSON,
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Wharf Street, Victoria, B. C., January 27, 1905.

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THE ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

As in all cases of general elections, the result in Ontario is not yet definitely known. The majority ranges between 40 and 44. Among the defeated are four ministers, two with portfolios and two without. The Hon. Mr. Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, who was regarded as the strongest man in the Government and a possible successor to Ross as Premier, is included in the number.

During the election campaign a tremendous effort was made to boom the Premier as the "Grand Old Man" of Ontario, whose personal abilities and moral record placed above the reproach that fell to the lot of the rank and file of the manipulators of the "Machine." It was held that he was not personally cognizant of the doings which brought the party into disgrace and, therefore, could not be held morally responsible for them. It is possibly true that he did not participate in the counsels of the party when the deep plots, subsequently exposed, were being developed, but it is absurd to suppose that as leader of the Government that was maintained in power for six or seven years by their means had no knowledge of what was going on. Those who know the Premier of Ontario would not accuse him of resorting to the corrupt methods which were employed to keep him in office, but that in the position of political desperation he palliated them is without doubt, and morally he must share the onus with his party. The receiver of stolen goods is not placed on a moral plane much higher than the party who stole them. Had Mr. Ross some years ago, when he discovered his weakness in the country, given up the reins of office, he would now have stood as high in the estimation of the country as ever he did.

With the coming into power of the Conservatives in Ontario, we have three if not four governments in direct geographical relation in political line. While the Northwest Territory is not, strictly speaking, governed on party lines, it is Conservative to all intents and purposes, and there is little doubt that upon the creation of the two new provinces the elections to follow will be upon party lines. The result in Ontario marks the waning point of the Liberal wave in this Dominion. Henceforth we may look for the rapid decline of the influence of the dominant party. In Quebec, there are strong evidences of a break-up of the present Parent Government, not perhaps so much through political opposition as through internal dissensions, and in New Brunswick another election will in all probability develop serious weakness in the Tweedie administration.

The Dominion Government itself is now so overweighed with a majority that we may expect reaction to commence long before the present parliament has expired. The last for office and spoils in the huge camp following is strong, and difficult to satisfy. In large majorities there is a danger almost equally as great as in small majorities. Sir John Macdonald said he was never so happy and secure as when he had from 20 to 30 of a clear support, and no more experienced politician ever lived in Canada.

TOLSTOY TO THE CZAR.

Three years ago, when Leo Tolstoy and all about him thought he was dying, he wrote a letter to the Czar of Russia. At the present moment, when there exists a relaxation of the press censorship, it has been thought advisable to give it publicity in order that his opinion on the subjects discussed might not remain unknown to those interested in Russian social progress.

In this letter Tolstoy addresses the Czar as "Dear Brother," and he states that that method of addressing the Emperor seems to him to be the more appropriate because in the letter he is appealing to him not so much as to a Czar as to a Man—a brother; and also because he was writing expecting the approach of death. The old novelist and social reformer did not want to die without telling His Majesty of what he thought of his then activity and what it might be—what great welfare it might bring to millions of people and to himself, and what great evil to both if it continued in the direction in which it was then going. That was certainly plain speaking, but a man on the verge of the grave need not have fear even of kings.

It was pointed out that a third of Russia lay in a case of special control, that is, outside of the law. The arm of the police, the Count adds, which is visible and secret, went on continually increasing. Prisons, places of exile and of penal servitude were overflowing, "politicals," with whom working men are now classified, being added to the hundreds of thousands of ordinary criminals. The censorship of literature extended to such absurd prohibitions which it did not reach even during the worst period of the forties. Religious persecution had never been so frequent and cruel as it was then, and became ever more cruel and frequent. Everywhere, both in the towns and industrial centres, troops were concentrated and sent out with loaded cartridges against the people. In many places fratricidal conflicts had already taken place, and everywhere such were being prepared, and new and yet more cruel struggles would inevitably occur.

These were some of the unpleasant truths that the great Russian prophet told the Czar. Whether they ever reached his notice it is impossible to say. They have, however, reached the populace, and while Tolstoy loved the soul of Alexander as he loved the soul of the humblest moujik, it was important that the world at least should have read the message.

Tolstoy pointed to the agricultural population, upon which the power of Russia rests, and said that it was yearly becoming poorer, until famine had become a normal occurrence. "Your helpers," he said, "assure you that by the arrest of all progress of life in the na-

tion, they will thereby ensure the welfare of this people and your own peace and safety," but added he, "one can sooner arrest the flow of a river than that incessant progressive movement of mankind which is established by God."

Of course, Tolstoy is purely socialist in his views, but at the same time he tells His Majesty many wholesome, as well as, to him, unpleasant truths in a rugged, sententious way. He tells the Emperor that his advisers are all wrong when they advise him that the hard, fast, unyielding system is necessary to the welfare of the country, that the orthodox and autocracy are advisable and inseparable; he tells him that the belief in the Czar as an infallible earthly deity is absurd, and must vanish with the enlightenment of the people; he tells him that his subjects will soon learn that a good Czar is only "un heureux hasard," and that some Czars have been monsters, and that however wise and good he may be he cannot himself rule a nation of 130,000,000; he tells him that although the Czar may elect good people to advise and surround him, he unfortunately cannot do that as he only knows a few score of individuals whom chance has brought within his reach or who have approached him accidentally, and who carefully screen him from those who would come near to replace them. "So that the Czar chooses not from those thousands of active, energetic, truly enlightened and honest men who are anxious for social work, but only from those concerning whom Beaumarchais used to say, 'he commonplace and creeping,' and everything else is within your reach," he tells us, "you are deceived about the devotion of the common people to the Czar, for when they cheer him as he passes through them the cheers come from the paid hirelings of his favorites; he tells him that he should walk about among the people he stationed behind the troops and he would hear language unsuited to his ears, which would convey anything else than sentiments of devotion; he tells him that the prestige of the Czar has been steadily falling from the days of Nicholas I, which was still high, until no one restrains himself from only condemning the acts of the Government, but laughs at His Majesty; he tells him that autocracy is an outgrown form of government which might answer somewhere in Central Africa, but not now in civilized Europe; he tells him of the cruelties of and inconsistencies of his government "in all your measures concerning Finland, Chinese appropriation of your whole of the Hague conference accompanied by the increase of the army, your weakening of administrative despotism, your support of persecution for faith, your consent to the institution of the spirit of the law, your governmental trading in that poison which is ruining the people—and, lastly, your insistence in maintaining corporal punishment notwithstanding all the petitions which are being addressed to you for the abolition of this senseless and utterly useless measure which disgraces the Russian people"; he tells him that by measures of oppression one can oppress a people but cannot rule them; he tells them that the people wish to be freed from the special laws by which they are placed in the position of pariahs, that they desire freedom of religion of thought and of education.

Then Tolstoy pleads with him on the score of private property, which he says, in his opinion, should be abolished, but whether or not he reminds the Czar that he has only one life to live, and that he could spend it fruitfully in "futile efforts to arrest the God-ordained progress of mankind from evil to good, from darkness to light, or you may, entering into the needs and desires of the people and devoting your life to their satisfaction, peacefully and joyously pass it in the service of God and men."

One can imagine the feelings of the Czar upon reading such a letter from one of his subjects. But, as intimated, it is wholly probable that he never even heard of its existence. Its effect upon the ears of the court circle, by which it was intercepted, would be that of cork pellets upon a stone wall. Nevertheless, the lessons Tolstoy and others have taught to the people are bearing fruit, and the truth of his warnings is being confirmed in the distant rumblings of revolution now being heard in that land.

Tolstoy has been a great force in Russia. He has had the power to stimulate but not to organize thought. He sees the evils of Russia, but if he were to undertake to remedy them confusion would be worse confounded. There is a John the Baptist of every movement, religious, political and social. His mission is to arouse, to stir up and inspire. Beyond that he cannot go with safety. Tolstoy belongs to the race of prophets who preceded the Messiah, the voice of one crying in the wilderness. Who the saviour of Russia will be it is impossible to say, but that he is near at hand is highly probable.

After about six years of political discussion, and a very tense period of about six months in Dominion and Provincial politics, the Ontario newspapers will be glad to have a long holiday. The Globe article, after its strenuous defence of Premier Ross, is especially in need of rest and recreation.

The Montreal Gazette says: The vote for the government of the Yukon has been reduced by \$195,000, and it is announced, unofficially, that thirty mining inspectors and recorders are to be dismissed. The Yukon officials failed to secure the election of the Sifton candidate in the recent election, and the punishment is apparently being made to fit the crime.

The Vancouver World is now finding serious fault with the Government for issuing a commission to enquire into the charges against Inspector Dick, who was accused of being in the employ of the Crow's Nest Coal Company. It says it was a willful waste of money, which is shown by the fact that, upon investigation, he has been fully acquitted. If the Government had not investigated the charges, we imagine the World would have been one of the first papers in British Columbia to blame it. It is very difficult to please people who are in such straits to find grievances against the Government.

Mr. John Oliver once wrote a famous letter in regard to the way the farmers in the Westminster district were being ground down by the heel of the Provincial tax collectors. He appeared yesterday before the Tax Commission to sustain the allegations he had made. Hon. R. G. Tait, when he called attention to the fact that the Fraser valley only contributed \$30,000 to the revenue and that the cost of the schools alone was \$50,000, and also that the Delta alone cost more for schools than was contributed by the three districts, was told by Mr. Oliver that had nothing whatever to do with the question. Possibly not, but we fancy that the farmers would have much more reason to be dissatisfied if they had to support their own schools, as is done in other parts of Canada. Where, we wonder, is the money to come from for these services

Have You Tried the "Cinnamon Treatment" for Influenza?

Everybody is using the Cinnamon Tablets in England for La Grippe. If taken within 24 hours of the commencement of the symptoms, most cases are cured in 48 hours. No unpleasant after-effects; no fear of pneumonia, or a relapse—YOU STAY CURED! We have just received a supply of the Tablets from London, England. Call before the stock is exhausted, for they sell quickly.

SHOTBOLT'S PIONEER DRUG STORE,

59 Johnson Street. First Store Below Government.
LOOK OUT FOR THE ELECTRIC SIGN.

\$3,000 on Oak Bay Ave.

For this sum we can sell a seven room Bungalow; nearly new, with bath, electric light, etc., and standing on two lots. House contains reception hall, drawing room, dining room, smoking room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom and pantries. The lots are set out in shrubs, about 200 rose bushes, small fruits, etc.

THE STUART ROBERTSON COMPANY, LIMITED

A. STUART ROBERTSON. 32 BROAD STREET J. E. SMART.

WALTER S. FRASER & CO.

LIMITED.

Importers and Dealers in

GENERAL HARDWARE

A Full Line of

Air Tight Heaters, Lanterns, &c.

Enamel and Tinware for Householders.

TELEPHONE 3. P. O. BOX 423. Wharf Street, VICTORIA, B. C.

SOMETHING NEW

JANUARY SALE

At HASTIE'S FAIR

THIS WEEK

10 per cent. off Enamel and Tinware.

Balance of Underwear and Stockings at cost

See Windows, 77 Government St.

If taxes are not collected sufficient to pay for them. The more the objections of special pleaders like Mr. John Oliver are examined the less they will stand the light of day. When Mr. Oliver comes to see the full force of the situation he will in all probability become an ardent advocate for Better Terms, and endeavor to get back from Ottawa a share of excessive contributions in that quarter.

The Montreal Gazette has an article on "Schools in the West." Our curiosity was naturally excited by the title, thinking that our staid contemporary was discussing the elimination of "Evangeline" from the school curriculum in this Province or the cost of education, or something else pertaining to our educational system. We find, however, that it was discussing the Manitoba school question. When will the people of Eastern Canada give up referring to Manitoba as the "West"? If Manitoba, which is almost in the centre of Canada, is the West, where do they think British Columbia finds a place?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

ANOTHER MEETING WANTED.

Sir—Permit me to say that I am in hearty accord with your suggestion that we get together and pool issues. Now the matter is better understood, and particularly its importance to our city's present and future prosperity, there will be no difficulty in getting a representative body of citizens to reach a decision on some definite line of action on the city's behalf.

Why not the Mayor waive ceremony and call another meeting, stating the situation clearly, and by taking the initiative in bringing the matter to a businesslike, practical issue for the city, remove all cause of further friction?

A. J. MORLEY.

January 26, 1905.

WHAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE FOR.

Toronto Telegram.
Toronto's public schools are primarily maintained to educate children for life and work, not for the collegiate institutes, the universities or learned professions. The overwhelming majority of children from the public schools all the education they will ever get anywhere. The great question is whether Toronto's educational system is doing all that should be done for the children, who are the first care of every well ordered public school system?

TRIBUTE TO EARL GREY.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier—We meet at this time under a combination of happy auspices. We have not only a new parliament, but a new Governor-General. It has become a trite observation that Canada has been exceptionally fortunate in the character of those who have been entrusted with the high prerogative of representing the crown in this first of all nations. The name of Earl Grey also recalls the name of the great man whose persistent energy wrung from unwilling men and things a magnificent record of reform which changed the face of England, which averted a revolution, and which transferred the government from a class to a nation. The name of Earl Grey also recalls the name of the man whose bold genius conceived and designed the policy which has revolutionized the colonial system of England by delivering the government of Canada from the hands of a grasping oligarchy to the people themselves; and lastly, it recalls the name of a man whose strong courage carried that policy to a successful issue and laid the foundation of the new Canada. I say we meet under happy circumstances, and there is reason to hope and expect that the illustrious name of Grey will be connected with further blessings to the people of Canada.

A FOLKSONG.

De win' is blowin' wahmah,
An' hit's blowin' 'Fon de bay;
Dey's a s'ot o' mist arisin';
All erlong de meddah way;
Dey ain't a hint o' froelin'
On de groun' 'neer in de sky,
An' dey ain't no use in hopin'
Dat de snow'll 'mence to fly.
It's goin' to be a green Christmas,
An' 'saul de day fu' me,
I wish dis was de las' one
Dat evah I should see.

Dey's dancin' in de cabin,
Dey's spakin' by de tree;
But dancin' times an' spakin'
Are all done pas' fur me.
Dey's dancin' in de big house,
Wild all de windahs wide—
Is dat de way fu' people
To meet de Christmas-tide?
It's goin' to be a green Christmas,
No matten what you say,
Dey's us dat will remembah
An' grieve de comin' day.

Dey's des a bief o' dampness
A-cugin' to my cheek;
De all's been dah an' heavy
An' 'threendin' fu' a week.
But not wid signs o' whitah,
Dough whitah'd seem so deah—
De whitah's out o' season,
An' Christmas Eve is heah.
It's goin' to be a green Christmas,
An' oh, how sad de day!
Go ax de hungry chatchin' d,
An' see what hit will say.

Dey's Allen on de hillside,
An' Marly in de plah;
Fu' Christmas was like springtime,
An' come wid sun an' rain.
Dey's Ca'line, John an' Susie,
Wild only dis one left;
An' now de curse is comin'
Wild murder in hits bief.
It's goin' to be a green Christmas—
Dey's heah my words an' see;
Befo' de summer beckons
Dey's mayn't weep wid me.
—Paul Lawrence Dunbar, in Century.

DR. A. W. CHASE'S 25c.
CATARIN CURE
Is sent direct to the diseased parts by the Improved Blower. It is the only remedy for the disease, stops dropsies in the throat and permanently cures Catarrh and Hay Fever. (Free. All dealers or Dr. A. W. Chase Medicine Co., Toronto and Buffalo.)

Crofton House

Vancouver, B. C.
A BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR THE LENT TERM will begin on Wednesday, January 11. For particulars apply to the Principal.

Miss Gordon,
Newham College, Cambridge.

TEETH WITHOUT PLATES
A SPECIALTY

Perfectly Painless Dentistry at The West Dental Parlors

Until New Year, appointments will be made for at least 25 per cent. reduction on Gold Crown and Bridge work, and Plate Dentures. Remember the fees are only reduced as an inducement to have your Dental work done up to that date—the quality and skillfulness will always be the same.

Please call early and examine specimens of the kind of work you may expect, with definite estimates and thorough examination free.
OFFICE:
The West Dental Parlors
IMPERIAL BANK CHAMBERS
Corner Yates and Government Streets
(Entrance on Yates Street.)

David Spencer

LIMITED

FRIDAY BARGAINS

Black Cloths

54 inch; regular \$1.00. Friday 50c.
20 colorings of the 15c Sateens.
Friday 9c.
50 yards Black Cheviot Voile, suitable for Gowns and Skirt Suits; \$1 value for 45c.
Venetian Cloth Suitings; \$10.50 Suits for \$5.00.
12 colorings in Evening Voiles; \$1 and \$1.25 values for 75c.
A small lot of Black Dress Goods, remnants, to be sold today.

Comforters

Size 72x72 inches; 20 of the \$3 quality for \$2.25.

Marseilles Bed Spreads

2½ yards wide; 12 of the \$4 quality for \$3.

Sheeting

(BLEACHED.)
2 yards wide; 180 yards at 27½c yard.
2½ yards wide (heavy plain), for 35c yard.

Turkish Towels

Size 15x27; \$1.25 value for 90c dozen.

Flannelette Embroideries

All the 10c, 12½c and 15c grades for 6c yard.

Fancy Linens

(ROTUNDA.)

Tray Cloth, Table Cloths, Runners, Bureau Covers, Sheets, Pillow Covers and Shams. A very large assortment at one-third less than ordinary prices. This lot was bought at the usual manufacturers' sample discount.

Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, winds up our

greatest Clothing Sale. \$12.50, \$15 and \$17.50 Suits for \$8.00. \$10.00 Suits for \$5.00. On Friday we place on sale twenty Raincoats, regular \$15 for \$9.75, sizes 34 to 40. Men's Trousers, \$3.50 and \$4 qualities for \$2.35, all neat Worsteds.

SATURDAY'S BARGAINS

300 Pieces Fancy Linens on Sale Saturday

Prices 35c, 50c and \$1.
Lace and Insertion Trimmed Bureau Covers. Values \$1.50 for \$1.00.
Drawn Work Linen Covers. Values \$1.50 for \$1.00.
Drawn Work Bureau Sets. Values \$1.50 for \$1.00.
Embroidered and Drawn Work Covers. Values \$1.75 for \$1.00.
Damask Table Covers. Values \$1.50 for \$1.00.
Damask Sideboard Covers. Values \$1.00 for 50c.
Lace and Insertion Bureau Covers. Values 75c and \$1.00 for 50c.
Lace and Insertion Trimmed Washstand Covers. Values 75c and \$1.00 for 50c.
Lace and Insertion Trimmed Runners. Value 75c for 50c.
Sateen Bureau Covers, Trimmed Battenberg. Values \$1 for 50c.
Damask Table Covers. 45x45. Values \$1.00 for 50c.
Embroidered Sideboard Covers. Values 75c for 50c.
Embroidered Tray Cloths. 75c values for 50c.
Damask Tray Cloths. 50c values for 35c.
Lace and Insertion Trimmed Table Covers. Values 50c for 35c.
Ditto in Runners and Trays. Values 50c for 35c.
Night Dress Bags. 50c values for 35c.
Embroidered Linen Tray Cloths. 50c values for 35c.
Embroidered Tray Cloths, Trimmed Lace. 50c values for 35c.

Mens' Saturday Bargains

Mens' Shoes—Box Calf, Double Sole and Shank, Sewed and Nailed and with back strap; good value for \$3.00\$1.90
Men's Box Calf Blucher Heavy Sole, Goodyear Welt; regular price \$3.75\$1.90
Men's Box Calf Blucher, medium heavy sole; regular \$3.50\$1.90
Men's Dongola Kid Shoes, with heavy sole; regular \$3\$1.90
20 pairs Men's Sample Shoes; values \$3 to \$5\$1.90
Men's Tan and Black Hunting Shoes; \$5 and \$6 makes\$1.50
20 pairs Boys' Patent Leather, box calf and kid shoes; sizes 1 to 4; prices \$3.50 and \$4.50, \$2.50
Men's Box Calf Double Sole Shoes; back strap and wearproof lining; regular \$4.50\$2.85
Men's Box Calf Kid Lined Shoes; regular \$4\$2.85
Boys' Box Calf Shoes, in sizes 4, 4½ and 5; regular \$2\$1.45

Women's Coats

At less than one-third their value.
Twenty-eight expensive coats. Prices \$25, \$30 and \$35 each. Saturday \$8.50 each.
Colors: Fawns and Black; all silk lined. See windows.

Kid Gloves Washable Suede

Colors: Black, Beaver, Grey and Mode (2 domestic). One Hundred and Fifty Pairs of the \$1.50 quality. Saturday, pair\$1.00 See window.

New Fancy Combs

The Royal Dip Comb, 35c.
Tartaroid Combs (the novelty), New Vassar Combs, New Duplex Puffs.

Boys' Belts

Patent Leather, 25c each.

DAVID SPENCER, LD.

Government and Broad Streets

LACTOMEN ! What is it ?

Lactomen is simply milk without water. Is made only from the highest quality of milk and is entirely free from germs or bacteria of any kind, and is therefore absolutely pure milk.

Get a sample from the demonstrator at

Windsor Grocery Co.

Government Street.

THE GREAT

Universal Bread Mixer

Is a labor saver, and does its work perfectly. It does the work in three Minutes without tiring the hands. We shall take pleasure in showing them to you, at ; ; ; ;

George Powell & Coy.

CHEAPSIDE

127 GOVERNMENT ST.

Having secured a first-class cutter, guarantee a perfect it.

The latest material for fall just arrived. Leave your orders early. Our prices assure to be good satisfactory.

734 YATES ST., ROOM 2.
MOODY BLOCK.

FIRE

ALBION IRON WORKS CO. The entire stock of new Engines, Boilers, Pump Motors, Winches, Garden Rollers, St Barrows, etc., etc., FOR SALE at low prices. It will pay you big to buy from ANDREW GRAY, Proprietor.

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Tel.—Works, 681. Victoria, B.C.

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AND

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